

K-503

Redue House (Site)
Front Street, Chestertown
2nd quarter 18th Century

The earliest deed found for the Redue House was recorded in 1759, when Thomas Ringgold purchased the property described by the executors as "the Water Lot which Daniel Dulaney made over to Hugh Campbell in 1743 for @600 ... together with the Mansion House or Messuage thereon erected lately in the possession of Nathaniel Palmer" ¹ It is curious that Ringgold paid only a third of the 1743 price, as it is likely that the house was standing on the property at the time.

From the one extant photograph, it is not possible to determine the brick bond used in its construction, but the existing southwest and southeast foundation walls are laid in common bond. The structure was three bays long. The central entrance was flanked by two windows with 9/6 sash. Two dormers on either side of the roof had 9/6 sash also – an uncommon, if not unique length of dormer in Kent County. Like the Custom House, the dormers were constructed with a full pediment. Connecting it to the adjoining one-story store building there was a small, one-story filler, probably built in the third quarter of the 18th century, after both properties were in Ringgold's possession.

The building remained the property of the Ringgold family through most of the 18th century and is possibly "the Counting House," "Bath House," or "Dry Goods Store" mentioned in the 1776 will of Thomas Ringgold, V. ² In 1796 it was acquired by William Slubey, a local merchant. ³ How it was later transferred to Elizabeth Comegys is unknown, but the

property is listed as her residence and in her possession in her will of 1819 when she bequeathed it to her daughter, Emeline.⁴

Emeline Comegys later married Joseph Redue, a person who was to distinguish himself in the community, first as merchant in the 300 block of High Street,⁵ and later becoming the Post Master, Sheriff and Tax Collector. In 1831, he purchased the Wharf property between his residence and the river.⁶ In the 1841 Tax Assessment, Joseph Redue's real property was assessed for \$900.00 with the following remarks:

"House and Water Lot No. 19 by Self

In good Repair"

His personal property included:

"Stock in Trade Merchandise \$2500

Private Securities 500

Live Stock 45

House Hold Furniture 400

Plate 37 oz. 37

Watch Silver 10"⁷

By 1860, the property was in the possession of the Redue's daughter, Miss Josephine Redue, who ran a school and taught privately from her residence.⁸ She mortgaged the property in 1878 to Mary S. Hynson⁹ and in 1886, advertised the property for sale:

"PUBLIC SALE OF DESIRABLE PROPERTY

The Improvements consist of a

STORY AND A-HALF

BRICK DWELLING HOUSE

in ordinary repair

This is one of the most desirable properties in Chestertown having numerous shade trees and a full view of Chester River"¹⁰

Apparently, however, Miss Redue did not sell the property. It instead descended to her niece, Maria Waters. Maria and her husband, William sold the property in 1905.¹¹ In 1910 the property was purchased by Wilbur W. Hubbard who demolished its upper story, as well as the buildings next door.¹² He then built four tenements on the old foundations, which remain to this day.

1. Land Records, Lib. JS 29, fol. 93.
2. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 230.
3. Land Records, Lib. BC 4, fol. 475.
4. Wills, Lib. 10, fol. 290.
5. Telegraph, 13 April 1827.
6. Land Records, Lib. JNG 2, fol. 357.
7. Kent County Tax Assessment, Chestertown, District 4, 1841.
8. Martinet Map, 1860, Insert of Chestertown.
9. Land Records, Lib. DCB 4, fol. 442.
10. Kent News, 3 July 1886.
11. Land Records, Lib. JTD 11, fol. 50.
12. Land Records, Lib. JTD 21, fol. 151.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-503

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic REDUE HOUSE SITE

and/or common 107, 109 Water Street

2. Location

street & number 107, 109 South Water Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Chestertown ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 107 - Mr. & Mrs. Rosenbaum; 109 - Ms. Sarah E. Skipper

street & number 107, 109 South Water Street telephone no.:

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber JTD21

street & number Cross Street folio 151

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Survey of Chestertown (#325)

date 1976 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

pository for survey records Town Office

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. 503

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Redue House Site is important architecturally because of its relationship to the Custom House and its form, a very common 1½ story gable roof structure built into the side of a bank. It is also important as an archaeological site since its foundation or basement walls remain in place and there has been minimal disturbance to the area.

From one extant photograph of its facade, it is not possible to determine the bond used in its brick construction, but the existing southwest and southeast foundation walls are laid in common bond. The structure was three bays long with a central entrance and two flanking windows with 9/6 sash. Two dormers on each side of the roof also had 9/6 sash, an uncommon, if not unique length of dormer in Kent County. The dormers were constructed with a full pediment in the same manner as the Customs House. Two chimneys rose within the gables. Connecting it to the adjoining one story building was a small one story filler, probably built in the third quarter, of the eighteenth century, after it had been acquired by Thomas Ringgold.

The Riverside Foundation still retains a door and window, both of which appear to have been altered at the time the superstructure was added after 1910. For a description of the existing frame structure, see K-325. The riverside elevation can be partly seen in the panoramic view of Chestertown, taken from the bridge prior to its demolition.

8. Significance

Survey No. 503

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 18th Century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Redue House Site is important for several reasons. The first house on the site appears to have been constructed for Daniel Dulaney, one of Maryland's most successful lawyer/merchants in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Similarly, it is important as one of the holdings of Thomas Ringgold IV and V, a local family of equal distinction. The building may have been either the "Counting House" or the "Dry Goods Store", mentioned in the will of Thomas Ringgold VI (d. 1776). In the nineteenth century it was the residence of Joseph and Emeline Redue. Joseph was an exceedingly successful person in Chestertown during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, first operating a mercantile business in the 300 block of High Street, and later being Post Master, Sheriff and Tax Collector. Later in the nineteenth century it was the site of a school, operated by his daughter, Miss Josephine Redue.

Prior to 1823, searching the chain of title to the Redue House is somewhat circumstantial. In 1823, by will of Elizabeth Comegys, the property was passed to Emeline Comegys, her daughter. Emeline later married Joseph Redue, who in 1831 purchased that portion of the William Slubey property referenced as lot 3 in the division of his real estate in 1803. (This was apparently the "new granary dock to the southwest and half the dock to the northeast" located behind the residence.) How the residence lot came into possession of Elizabeth Comegys has not yet been found.

William Slubey had purchased the Customs House, on water lot 18, the adjoining lot 19, and 17'11" of lot 20, from Thomas Ringgold VI in 1796, but Slubey's enterprises failed and he was nearly bankrupt when he died in 1803. After his death, all of his estate was sold, the Ringgold lands being divided into at least four parcels.

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 503

Usilton, Fred G., The History of Chestertown, Chestertown, 1899. Kent
County Land and Probate Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County, Inc. date November 1995

street & number P.O. Box 663 telephone (410) 778-3499

city or town Chestertown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COLLEGE PLACE
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
2022-2023

REDUE HOUSE SITE
K-503
Continuation Sheet 8.1

Thomas Ringgold IV had purchased from the heirs of Daniel Dulaney of Annapolis, an un-numbered water lot in 1759, "with the Mansion House or Messuage thereon erected, lately in the possession of Nathaniel Palmer". It is assumed that this transaction refers to parts of water lots 19 and 20, on which the Redue House sat. In the will of Thomas Ringgold, the younger, who died only four years after his father, he mentions the house in which his Mother lived (the Customs House), "the Counting House or Bath House" and "the Dry Goods Store". It could be assumed that the latter two referred to the stone house which joined Mrs. Ringgold's house, and the Redue House with small connection between the two, all of which appear in the photograph.

The building remained in the possession of the Redue family until advertised for sale in 1886. The ad appeared in the Kent News on July third:

Public Sale of
DESIRABLE PROPERTY
In Chestertown

By virtue of competent authority, the undersigned as attorney for Miss Josephine E. Redue, will offer at Public Sale at the Voshell House in Chestertown, Maryland.

On TUESDAY, July 6th, 1886,
AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK A.M.

ALL THAT LOT LAND

situate on the Southeast side of Frotn [sic] Street, between High and Cannon Streets, and adjoining the land of the heirs of Hiram Brown, dec'd, and Mr. J. Ringgold, having a frontage on said Front Street of 53 feet and 6 inches, and a depth of 135 feet.

The Improvements consist of a

STORY AND A-HALF

BRICK DWELLING HOUSE
in ordinary repair,

This is one of the most desirable properties in Chestertown, having numerous shade trees and a full view of Chester River.

REDUE HOUSE SITE
K-503
Continuation Sheet 8.2

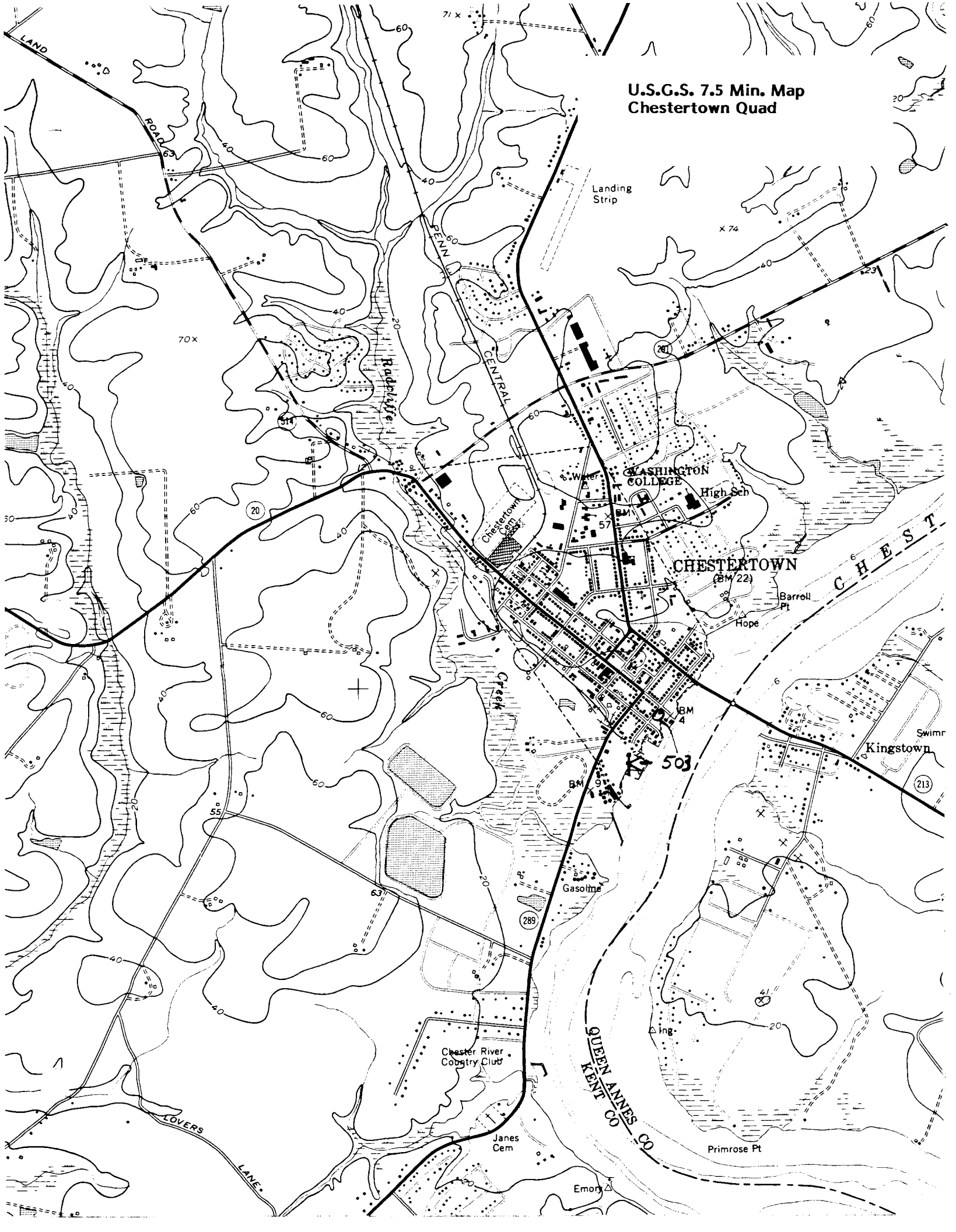
TERMS OF SALE:

The sum of \$500 cash on the day of sale: \$500 may be left (at the option of the purchaser) as a permanent investment: the balance of purchase money payable twelve months from day of sale, with interest, and to be secured by the bond of the purchaser with approved security to be approved by the undersigned.

Apparently, however, the property was not sold, but was mortgaged to Mary S. Hynson for \$500, which mortgage was recorded in 1878. The next recorded transfer of the Redue Property was in 1905. After two transfers in 1908, the property was purchased by Wilbur W. Hubbard, who had previously bought "Widehall" and the "Customs House".

The story related by Mr. Hubbard's son, Wilbur Ross Hubbard, is that his father tore down the Redue House and adjoining stone building while his mother was in Paris establishing Wilbur in a private school. When she returned, she was furious that her husband would have undertaken to destroy the buildings in her absence and build four tenements on the old foundations.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Chestertown Quad





Redue House K-503
Chestertown
from Postcard
MS SC 4138-28